The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the labor's legislative, and political fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 31, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1943 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JULY 6, 1948 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 38, NO. 27

Are You REGISTERED?

Fenton Elected to ILO Governing Body; Free Trade Unions Move Against WFTU

San Francisco.—Frank P. Fenton, the AFL's international representative and the U. S. workers' delegate to the International Labor Conference here, was named a regular member of the ILO governing body in an election resulting in a complete victory for anti-Communist forces among delegates to the conference.

The most notable gain for the free trade union supporters was the defeat of Vicente Lombardo Toledano, the Kremlin's No. 1 representative in the Western Hemisphere, who previously held a seat on the governing body. Elected to replace Toledano was Bernardo Ibanez, of Chile, who is president of the newly-organized AFL-supported Inter-American Confederation of Workers.

Meanwhile, representatives of anti-Communist labor federations of Latin America and Asia took steps leading to the creation of a new world-wide body of "free trade unions" as a rival to the World Federation of Trade Unions which is dominated by Soviet Russia.

Serafino Romualdi of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, who is secretary-treasurer of the 5-month-old Inter-American Confederation of Labor (CIT), and Lin Sun-sen of China, representing the newly-formed Asian Federation of Labor, will form the nucleus of a joint secretariat of the two federations.

"The meeting was called," Mr. Romualdi said, "not only to set up this secretariat, but to obtain pledges of support and to take joint action toward calling, as soon as possible, an international conference to form a genuine international confederation of free trade unions."

Commenting upon Toledano's defeat, Mr. Fenton, who stepped up from a deputy to a regular member of the ILO governing body, hailed the result of the election as "the best evidence that Lombardo Toledano has lost control as the labor leader in the Western Hemisphere."

The new governing body has 8 representatives from the Western Hemisphere, all of whom are anti-Communist: Mr. Fenton, Mr. Ibanez, P. R. Bengough, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada; S. De Azevedo Pequeno of Brazil, and A. Cubina of Cuba.

Mr. Fenton asserted that there was no mistake by this election a growing tendency toward an international federation of free trade unions, excluding Russia and its satellites." He insisted the WFTU is Marshall Plan countries for having gone on record as "permitting each country to make up its own mind whether to accept the Marshall Plan or not," while in those countries was declaring itself officially to the program.

He said that many WFTU members had told him that they wished they were out of the federation. He said the CIO already was out of the WFTU and was ready to join "an international federation of free trade unions." Such a federation was necessary, he said, "if we are to work efficiently on the Marshall Plan program."

80th Congress In Retrospect.

ILO Parley Adopts Treaty On Free Employment Aid

San Francisco.—The International Labor Conference, at its 31st session here, adopted a proposed treaty under which a system of free public employment would be set up in each of the 59 member states of the International Labor Organization for ratification, provides that each member "for which this convention is in force" shall undertake to maintain the maintenance of a free public employment service.

In many respects similar to the United States Employment Service, the set-up would include local and regional offices, be organized to provide effective recruitment and placement of workers and facilitate transfers from labor surplus areas to those of labor shortage and "from one country to another which may have agreed to such movements" concerned.

The wording of the treaty itself, which is due for final ratification on Saturday, met with no opposition, but a recommendation covering details of organization was approved after a lengthy and bitter debate and the defeat of two proposed amendments.

On behalf of the employers' group of the tripartite conference, Thomas A. Reid of the United States, one of the two delegates, opposed the elimination of a paragraph that he alleged was aimed at putting private employment agencies out of business. "As long as there are employers," he said, "legislation to wipe out such establishments is unrealistic and was lost by a vote of 14 to 12.

Sir Guildhaume Myrddin-Evans, of the United Kingdom, mandatory for the employment service to 50 to 51, in a move to make it possible in such cases of "observe strict neutrality" in the case of "employment in respect of which the wages or conditions of work fall below the standard defined by law or regulation, collective agreement or prevailing practice." Also adopted, the recommendation calls for non-referral of workers in such cases.

The conference took steps to revise, for the second time, a treaty concerning "employment of women during the night" which was adopted in 1919. Attaches of the ILO said that experience had shown the existing regulations to be unsatisfactory and that the revision was to meet "conditions which have emerged" since the convention was first revised in 1934.

AFL's Boilermakers Union Reports Widespread Pay Boosts for Members

Kansas City, Kan.—Charles J. MacGowan, president of the AFL's International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, revealed that the union has negotiated recent agreements that boosts ranging from 12 to 20 cents an hour with hundreds of business firms throughout the nation.

The agreements provided also for shift differentials, improved vacations and other favorable working conditions, MacGowan pointed out.

"Furthermore," he said, "the increases represent a net gain for our members, without the loss of any time because of strikes."

In the building and construction field, MacGowan described, as particularly significant, an agreement negotiated with national and local contractors of 10 states in the Missouri Valley. This pact establishes a rate of $2.15 an hour for boilermakers and $1.90 for helpers.

"The importance of this agreement will be immediately recognized by the fact that it establishes uniform wages and working conditions throughout an area where it is presently contemplated that some 107 dams or reservoirs and 32 power plants will be erected under the Missouri River development plans of the Bureau of Reclamation," MacGowan said.

He also revealed that in negotiations between a committee of the union and 39 major companies engaged in steel plate construction and tank work, an existing national tank building agreement was amended to provide for an increase of 20 cents an hour.

Many other advances were cited by MacGowan, including an 8-cent-an-hour raise for shipbuilding and ship repair workers of the West Coast.

He pointed out, too, that in "union shop" agreements under the Taft-Hartley Act, voting majorities for the union security clause were 96 per cent.

"This further emphasizes," he said, "the tremendous waste of taxpayers' money in foolishly spending for the requirements of the Taft-Hartley Act in order to outlaw the union shop vote."

Employers' Group Assailed For Monopolistic Practices

Milwaukee, Wis.—Anthony Doria, secretary-treasurer of the AFL's United Automobile Workers, assailed the monopolistic practices of an employers' association in bringing suit against one of its member firms because it negotiated a wage increase with the union.

The Chicago Foundrymen's Association is seeking $100,000 in damages from the Delta Star Electric Company because it offered members of the AFL local a 13-cents-an-hour wage increase which allegedly weakened the association's case in a strike against the employer, Doria charged.

"What chance has a worker got—particularly an unorganized worker —when employers agree among themselves exactly what kind of raise they will give and impose drastic penalties on any employer who dares to accept the arbitrary pattern.

"This kind of association brings into the open the monopolistic type of agreement existing among many employer groups throughout the country. That these agreements violate the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, but they were usually extremely difficult to prove because of the secretive practices of the employers' associations," Doria declared. "We are in the ranks of the Chicago Foundrymen's Association over the devilishness of one of its members right in the heart of Seattle."

"Maybe the Taft-Hartley Act should be amended to include a provision prohibiting employers from forming cooperative companies who believe it right to grant fair wage demands."

U. S. BUDGET SURPLUS NEAR RECORD $9 BILLION

Washington.—Uncle Sam's budget surplus reached the astronomical figure of $8,809,174,412, a new high in the history of the nation, the Treasury Department reported.

The surplus—excess of government income over spending for the elapsed part of the fiscal year —was greater by:

1. Total spending by the government for any year up to June 30 totaled only $9,022,581,000.

2. Total budget receipts for any year up to wartime 1942, when revenues totaled $12,709,061,000.

The big surplus, however, will show a sharp drop when the fiscal year ends. A national budget $5,000,000,000 in reduction became mandatory when President Truman signed the foreign aid bill, the amount being charged to this fiscal year to avert a deficit next year.

AFL PRINTERS REJECT PACT OFFERED BY PUBLISHERS

Chicago.—Members of Local 16 of the AFL's International Typographical Union voted overwhelmingly to reject a proposal made by the Chicago Newspaper Publishers Association for a renewal of the pact which they would began last November 24.

The union members also amended their own counter contract proposal which they had made to the publishers and voted overwhelmingly for it and finally ratified unanimously for their committee's recommendation that if the Chicago Newspaper Publishers Association rejected the contract proposal it would be submitted to the publishers individually.

When it made the final contract offer to Local 16 a month ago, the C. T. A. A. notified the newspapers striking composing-room employes to report to their jobs or face their approval or disapproval of it.

MAIL CLERKS KEEP ARMY PAY

Washington. — President Truman agreed with Congress that scores of postal clerks who volunteered to help the Army distribute mail during the war can keep extra pay of $100 to $1,000. He signed a bill reversing the Controller General who ruled the clerks were not on military duty all the time and therefore should not get full credit toward automatic pay increases in the postal service. He asked for refunds.

Workers Roll Up 15-1 Majority Against T-H Law In AFL Poll

AFL Farm Labor Union Head Raps Bill Permitting Entry of Foreign Workers

Washington.—H. L. Mitchell, president of the AFL's National Farm Labor Union, assailed a bill, jammed through Congress almost unnoticed in the last minute rush for adjournment, which provides for the importation of foreign agricultural workers to United States farms.

Mitchell charged there is absolutely no need for the measure under which the United States Employment Service expects to bring about 42,000 workers from foreign nations with the initial transportation costs borne by the U. S. government. These costs are supposed to be repaid by the farm operators, the AFL farm leader said.

"All over the country there are pools of unemployed farm workers. In the South there are many employed only part time in production of cotton crops. Ever since 1942, our union has been seeking jobs for these employes. We have made arrangements each season with some employers to transfer these workers to places where they're needed and return them home afterward.

"There's a lot of talk about such a shortage of farm labor but we have never yet been able to locate enough jobs to fill the needs of the workers we represent."

Mitchell insisted that if the money used to bring in alien workers was instead to pay transportation for transferring American citizens from points where unemployment exists to places where labor is scarce, "the farm labor problem would be solved without importing a single foreign national."

And Uncle Sam could get the money back, by deductions from the earnings of such workers.

He declared that a powerful lobby of wealthy ranch owners in California, and of big plantation operators elsewhere, worked behind the scenes for adoption of the latest bill to have Uncle Sam recruit aliens.

"These big operators recently tried to modernize Simonson's Law of Nations and below the Rio Grande," Mitchell said. "The late Dr. Simonson had eased the way by negotiating an agreement, with the Mexican government relative to the terms under which such workers could be conducted by the employers.

"But the fact is that even though they sent a special train down to the City of Mexico, they came back largely empty handed. Now they want Uncle Sam to do the job for them.

"Their real long-range aim, of course, is to flood this country with an army of foreign nationals from all parts of the western hemisphere, so because they need these workers, but because they want to use them as a wedge for driving down the wages and working conditions of American farm workers—and incidentally of other workers."

Pattern Markers League Urges Support For LLPE

Washington.—The Pattern Makers League of North America, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, urged every worker to support the activities of the League for Political Education.

In an editorial appearing in the Pattern Makers Journal, George Q. Lawyer, president of the Pattern Makers Union, stressed the importance of the coming election and declared that "the issue is not whether the present Congress or any other Congress of two years are to be preserved and expanded or weakened and destroyed."

Castigating the 80th Congress for its anti-labor record and for its refusal to enact needed social measures, the editorial declared:

"If you want more of the same stuff and forget to register and vote, the 81st Congress will continue to do the bidding of the National Association of Manufacturers.

"If, however, you want our country to continue the progress it has made over the past 16 years, you can make important contributions to this end.

"The AFL has established the League for Political Education to the interest of the average citizen. The purpose of the League is to make sure that the people who make the laws understand and vote on the matter of the Taft-Hartley Act. The act serves as the acid test of a candidate's attitude toward the general welfare of the people who work for wages. Don't be deceived by an occasional right vote by a man who has a long record of voting wrong. Remember, there was nothing wrong with Benedict Arnold until he betrayed us to our enemy at a critical stage of the struggle for freedom. In each of us a man is allowed to be wrong only once. By that same token there was nothing wrong with several members of Congress until they betrayed working people into the hands of their reactionary enemy, the National Association of Manufacturers. The passage of the Taft-Hartley Act was the tip that reaction again dominates the Congress.

"To carry out an effective campaign against reaction requires cooperation and funds. Cooperation means talking with your family and friends. Persuade them to register and vote. Funds mean voluntary contribution of at least one dollar to finance the work of Labor's League for Political Education. Remember, the League is a committee for you. Only your voluntary contribution will be voluntarily sent to Labor's League for Political Education. If your friends wish to contribute they are free to make their donations to this worthy cause.

"The work of the league will be unspectacular and prolabor. Time is passing rapidly so do your part to stop the reaction exemplified by the 80th Congress."

Job Rights of Reserves and Enlistees Protected Under New Draft Measure

Washington.—Robert K. Salyers, Director of the Bureau of Veterans' Reemployment Rights, United States Department of Labor, explained the job reemployment provisions of the Selective Service Act of 1948 as they relate to enlistees and reserve personnel as well as to persons who may be inducted.

The Solicitor of Labor issued an opinion holding that although persons may not be inducted or ordered to active duty within 90 days after June 24, 1948, the effective date of the new draft act, any one voluntarily enlisting or called to active duty subsequent to that date is entitled to the full reemployment rights and benefits contained in the Selective Service Act of 1948 and the Veterans' Regulations, including for not more than three years if his enlistment, to reemployment rights. However, such rights do not carry beyond the first enlistment unless it is extended by law. A member of a reserve component who responds to an order or call to an active duty for training in the land forces entitled to reemployment rights and benefits if he leaves a position other than a temporary one in order to perform active duty not later than three years after the date of his induction into the service as he is permitted to be relieved from active duty.

In general, Salyers stated, the rights and benefits granted by the new act are substantially like those contained in previous draft laws.

Individuals now in the service are still covered by the old acts. Under the new Selective Service Act, responsibility for assistance in connection with reemployment rights is shifted from the Veterans' Administration to the Department of Labor, represented by the Bureau of Veterans' Reemployment Rights, the same organization which is currently assisting World War II veterans to obtain their former jobs.

Ballots Defend Your Freedom

BE SURE TO VOTE THIS YEAR AND EVERY YEAR

AFL UNION ENCOURAGES ATTENDANCE AT INSTITUTE

Milwaukee.—A "building operation and industrial relations institute" held recently at the Milwaukee Vocational School in cooperation with the Building Service Employes International Union. For three days 80 janitors took a refresher course in the special cleaning and maintenance problems of large public buildings.

Building custodians attending were from Milwaukee and other Wisconsin cities. The union encouraged attendance by paying the fees of its members, but the course was open to all janitors.

Complete Results Show Over 93% of Voters Oppose Statute

Washington.— Union workers are firmly opposed to the Taft-Hartley Act by a ratio of more than 15 to 1, final returns in the cross-section poll conducted by the AFL News Service have revealed today.

With the help of the labor press, the poll, conducted by secret-ballot expressions from approximately 1 percent of the membership of the American Federation of Labor and the final tally stood:

Against T-H law:	69,972
For T-H law	4,460

Thus the claims of the sponsors of this legislation that it is really favored by the rank and file membership and opposed only by union leaders, are thoroughly discredited.

On the contrary, more than 93 percent of the workers who mailed their ballots to the AFL News Service registered strong and bitter protest against the obnoxious Taft-Hartley Act.

The overwhelming sentiment among union members against this law, as expressed in the AFL poll, is confirmed by the secret-ballot elections conducted by the National Labor Relations Board on the union-shop issue. Approximately 90 percent of such elections thus far and they have the support of more than 85 percent of those eligible to vote.

Now that the facts are established, it is up to organized labor in every part of the country to see to it that union members register their opposition to the Taft-Hartley Act in the only way it can be effective—at the polls.

If the vast membership of the American Federation of Labor and their families and friends go to the polls November 2 and vote for pledged candidates for Congress who voted for the Taft-Hartley Act, many of these enemies of labor can be defeated.

Such a result would be a splendid opening for the politicians and champions of the political awakening in Washington toward labor from the 80th Congress. The repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act would quickly follow.

Labor's League for Political Education, under the direction of Joseph D. Keenan, is carrying on a campaign to be able to get out the labor vote. Each member of the League, the AFL is urged to cooperate in this patriotic undertaking. If you are not belonging a $1 contribution to the League, you will be eligible to vote and by actual registration. Only in this manner can security be assured. That goes for the ladies, too.

U. S. Manpower In Tight Supply

Washington.—The supply of the nation's manpower is getting tight again during the wartime period, according to a report issued by the United States Employment Service.

The USES said that the latest publication that "this peacetime job has created a demand for unusually high levels of industrial activity.

"The shortage of experienced industrial workers in all of the labor market areas of the country is acute.

"Demand for skilled workers is now the greatest in peacetime industry, and trained manpower for trained scientific specialists has reached unprecedented levels in science fields.

Concern over the labor has shifted from the vast shipbuilding program that was started back in the Great Lakes, New England and Middle Atlantic regions.

Apprenticeship programs which were started during the war have been re-established and are being rigidly enforced.

Men are now being drafted and skilled and semiskilled jobs during the war years.

DEPENDENTS OF VETERANS TO GET HIGHER BENEFITS

Washington. — President Truman signed a bill increasing by 20 percent government pension paid to widows, orphans and dependent parents of veterans of service men.

The pensions for service men who died during World War II or of veterans who have since died—of service-connected disabilities, will receive $75 per month instead of the present $60. The pension is increased $25 for one child, and $15 each for additional children.

The orphan child will receive $50 a month instead of $30. Dependent parents of children will receive $90 instead of $54.

REA POWER DISTRIBUTION AT RECORD LEVELS IN '48

Washington.—The Rural Electrification Administration closed the 1948 fiscal year with its borrowers reporting operations far in excess of any previous year, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced.

During the year the REA borrowers, largely cooperatives, connected more new consumers, constructed more electric distribution facilities and distributed more power than in any year since the inception of REA in 1935.

Reemployment Rights of Veterans Responsibility of Labor Department

Washington. — Thirty field representatives of the Bureau of Veterans' Reemployment Rights, U. S. Department of Labor, met here to review their current activities and learn of their new responsibilities under the Selective Service Act of 1948, Robert K. Salyers, director announced.

The new draft act, Salyers said, directs the bureau "to effect the reemployment in their former positions of persons who have satisfactorily completed any period of active duty in the armed forces of the United States, Coast Guard, or Public Health Service."

Other subjects taken up at the meeting were:

1. Closing of 20 of the bureau's 25 field offices throughout the country because of a 50 percent budget cut.

2. Plans for holding a series of meetings on the reemployment provisions of the act with representatives of employers, unions and veterans organizations.

"Our purpose is to adopt a progressive approach," Salyers said. "We want to be able to avoid violations rather than to find them only after they arise. We will also continue to emphasize the importance of negotiation rather than court action in settling disputes."

Salyers said that the field offices will retain the right to refer cases pending under the old acts, and that one of their principal duties will be to expedite the handling of these cases with a minimum of delay and fewer field offices.

Field offices will be retained in the following cities: Boston, New York, Washington, Atlanta, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Kansas City, Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle.

Funds for the operations of the bureau include $1,000 cease pending under the old acts, and that one of $509,000 to $207,500 for the fiscal year beginning July 1. For the fiscal year coming to a close the bureau had an appropriation of $533,240.

AHEARN IS NAMED DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SAFETY PARLEY

Washington. — President Truman appointed Vincent P. Ahearn as executive director of the President's conference on Industrial Safety to be held in Washington, September 27, 28, 29. The President asked the appointment of Labor to call the conference through its Bureau of Labor Standards.

Acceptance of the executive directorship of the conference by Ahearn marked one of the major developments in the swift-moving plans to develop a nationwide campaign to reduce the human and economic losses caused by work injuries and deaths.

Since 1926 Ahearn has been executive secretary of the National Sand and Gravel Association and was an industry member of the National War Labor Board; industry member of the Labor-Management Advisory Committee to the Director of the United States Conciliation Service, Department of Labor; and alternate management delegate, President's Labor-Management Conference.

CRUIKSHANK ATTENDING WORLD HEALTH PARLEY

Washington. — Nelson H. Cruikshank, the AFL's director of social insurance, was one of the advisers to the United States delegation attending the World Health Conference of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.

The convening of the assembly by the Economic and Social Council of the activity of the World Health Organization, is particularly significant since it will inaugurate a new phase in the world's participation in the field of health, the need for which has been apparently greatly aggravated with the rapid advances in modern medical knowledge, in public health work and in other medical activities.

SIMMONS BED STRIKE VOTED

Kenosha, Wis.—Gregory Wallig, president of the AFL's Federal Labor Union Local 19456 at the Simmons Company, announced members had voted 1,091 to 105 authorization for a strike against the bed manufacturing concern, which employs about 2,000 persons.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the better trial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JULY 9, 1948 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

Are You REGISTERED?

DOUBLE DUTY

By MARY M. POTTER

Note to Editors: With this issue the AFL Weekly News Service inaugurates a new weekly feature for women. The column, "Double Duty," will be carried in each supplement edition of the News Service, and will be devoted to a discussion of helpful household hints and tips for women.

Do you remember the old story of the woman who washed, ironed, mended and stitched, cooked, tended babies, scrubbed floors, etc., etc.? You were supposed to ask what she did with her spare time.

Well, today she works—in an office, in a factory, a store, a schoolroom, or maybe in a laundry where she does more washing and ironing. Millions of women have become breadwinners as well as homemakers in the past few years. The income of the head of the family is often insufficient and the mother must help supplement his earnings.

I know. I should know. I've been doing two jobs as a working woman and a homemaker for 20 years. It has been plenty tough, yet I get a kick out of it.

If you've been awake practically all night with a baby who is cutting teeth, you still must report to your job early the next morning in a cheerful mood, with your hair neatly arranged, your nails freshly manicured, and your seams straight.

At the end of a hard day in the office you return home, still in a cheerful mood (you hope), with your marketing under your arm, ready to do a real house dress. You rock and serve a tasty and nourishing dinner. You tell the children bedtime stories. You sing the baby to sleep. You darn your husband's socks and try to understand his problems while you wonder how you'll make room for Aunt Minnie when she arrives next Sunday from Minneapolis.

When you finally go to sleep you dream of the woman of long ago whose "spare time" was such a joke.

But the woman who works outside her home has made a great contribution to the welfare of her sex. It is largely on her account that manufacturers have put +h the many time-saving devices of such variety and efficiency as were never thought of in the good old days.

Yes, it's a lot easier for a woman to carry on her double duty these days. In this column I hope to pass on a few helpful hints. The first and most important one is to remain cheerful no matter what. If you can't manage that, most problems can be licked.

Though you may have every gadget you want, there is one job for which there is no shortcut and it takes a lot of time. We all have to think for ourselves.

Every woman should know a little about what is going on in the world and a great deal about what is going on in her own community.

When the house gets noisy and we send the children to the movies, we should know what kind of a show is playing. We should be vitally interested in what sort of programs our local radio stations are offering during the hours when children are sitting on the floor with ears glued to the receiver. We should know how many vitamins and calories are contained in a well-balanced meal. We should be informed on the records of each of our off-all trades.

Maybe some simple menus and recipes will save you valuable time. We might recommend a few good movies and perhaps we can point out what your government and your labor union is striving for and how you can help. We'd like to try.

AFL Calls For Probe By United Nations Of Slave Labor In Russian-Ruled States

New York.—The American Federation of Labor asked the United Nations to investigate slave labor conditions in satellite nations of Soviet Russia, and charged that in 4 such countries "laborers are literally worked to death."

The AFL position was stated in a memorandum to Trygve Lie, Secretary General of the UN, from Matthew Woll, chairman of the federation's international relations committee. Mr. Woll and David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, are official AFL consultants to the United Nations.

The memorandum urged nations behind the iron curtain" to give their consent to an investigation of conditions by the International Labor Organization.

A survey by the federation, the memorandum said, disclosed that in Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Poland workers are not free to join unions of their choice, and that in each country there exists "a single unitary trade union which has been monopolistic powers and is under the domination of the Communist party and the government."

In Poland, the AFL memorandum charged, private trade unionists had been jailed, deported and killed. Freedom of workers' movements has been restricted and "while no antistrike laws exist, those who foment labor unrest, or strikes, are liable to arrest and criminal prosecution under the charge of engaging in 'economic sabotage.'"

A Polish mine worker, the report said, "is driven to the point of utter exhaustion. The federation urged that all workers "must have the right to freely form, join or belong to trade unions without interference, and that these trade unions must be free to act in accordance with the decisions of their members."

All countries with an industrialized economy and a trade union movement of long standing, the AFL memorandum commended.

Official Soviet publications, the federation noted, showed that unions in Russia are "merely tools of the communist party and the government. Collective bargaining, discontinued from 1934 to 1947, the survey declared, has been revived in collective agreements, based on a piecework scale, but increases in the norms of output, has led to a consequent reduction in wages. Employers, unable to change jobs at will, function under a "feudal labor system," the report continued.

The AFL said that the federation's report would likely come before the Economic and Social Council, which opens in Geneva July 19.

State Supreme Court Protects Union; Rejects Employer's Injunction Suit

San Francisco.—The California Supreme Court put a stop to the practice by some employers of attempting to secure injunctions against unions under the Taft-Hartley Act in the lower courts of the state.

In unanimously upholding the high state court held that a lower court judge was correct in refusing to issue an injunction against a union on the ground that under the law it is the exclusive function of the National Labor Relations Board to issue such injunctions. Private parties, the decision said, have no standing in court to ask for injunctive relief under such circumstances.

The case arose when a Los Angeles employer brought suit against a union alleging the existence of a labor dispute and charging that the union was conducting a secondary boycott and had established a picket line. When the lower court judge refused to issue an injunction, the employer appealed the decision to the state supreme court.

In addition to refusing to enjoin the picketing, the high court declared that secondary boycott activities are banned by the Taft-Hartley law, and in viewpoint was in line with the earlier supreme court decision that the California "Hot Cargo" law was invalid. That decision held that since Congress enacted the contention held by some that the Taft-Hartley law banned the secondary boycott and related activities carried out by unions unlawful for the entire nation, regardless of state law, and that the decision regulating such practices within a particular state.

In its ruling the court rejected also a claim by employers that the state court may refuse to issue an injunction against picketing "even against public policy," that is to say, in violation of the state's public policy law. The decision thus upheld the stand of the California labor federation of Labor that, except for exercising its police power, the state supreme court must protect the constitutional rights of citizens.

Repeal of T-H Anti-Labor Law Urged on Democrats by Green

AFL Unions Organize For Defeat of Enemies

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—By Labor Day, antilabor Congressmen in New York City and state will be in a position to know what it means to have the full-scale opposition of AFL members ranged against them.

With a quiet efficiency, the Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York and the New York AFL Labor Council have undertaken the task of organizing local branches of Labor's League for Political Education.

Here's how it's being done:

Statewide: State AFL President Thomas A. Murray aided by Secretary-Treasurer Harold C. Hanover are designating the central body of each locality to ensure the largest possible registration of voters. Particular emphasis will be directed at districts represented by pro-Taft-Hartley Congressmen. Registering will be the target for November 2.

The opening of the big push will come at the State AFL's 85th Annual Convention opening August 2 in New York City when more than 1,200 delegates are expected to hammer out a program to combat the inroads of reactionaries and laberbaters. It will be the 85th State AFL convention organized in the 85th U. S. Congress.

In a special directive to state affiliates, Murray and Hanover declared: "From here out, it must be our unions and labor freedom first. Party lines and partisan matters must take a back seat.

"The 80th Congress would never have written a black record of reaction, if we had been on our job two years ago. In many states, not less than half of our AFL membership was registered to vote."

Citywide: Each of the New York counties have committees assigned to comb the areas for AFL members. Under the capable direction of District 65 Leader Leroy Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer Joseph C. Quinn, executive secretary, meetings of all Central Trades delegates have been arranged to establish branches of Labor's League for Political Education.

District captains will be appointed within each county and all AFL members in those localities will be alerted to the urgency of the moment.

That's the organizational blueprint which received implementation at Tuesday's meeting of Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and LLPE Director Joseph D. Keenan, both of whom spoke at recent sessions of the Council.

County chairmen have already been appointed: Thomas O'Leary, Teamsters; John J. Breslin, Building Trades; Ike Rosen, Secretarial; Charles E. Sinnigen, Union Labor Council.

New York AFL bodies are readying for the big push. With November, 1946, as the horrible example, AFL members are determined to root out every single Congressman right out of Washington.

Registering in October and voting in November is New York Labor's Number One Must starting right now.

ILO Conference Adopts Proposed Treaty Guaranteeing the Freedom of Association

San Francisco.—The 31st International Labor Conference in session here adopted a proposed treaty guaranteeing the freedom of association and the right of workers and employers to organize without interference on the part of governments.

Approval of the declaration was nearly unanimous, with the only negative votes cast by the Czechoslovak delegates from Portugal, Poli+h, Czechoslovak, and South African delegates abstained from voting.

The proposed treaty specified that workers and employers, "without distinction whatsoever," have the right to "establish and join organizations of their own choosing" without any "previous authorization"—that is, without requiring any "licensing" by governments.

The document called for "full freedom" of operation by such organizations and declared that "the public authorities shall refrain from any interference which would restrict this right or impede the lawful exercise thereof."

In exercising their rights, such organizations "shall respect the rule of the land," the declaration added, but it stressed that "the law of the land shall not be such as to impair nor shall it be applied so as to impair the guarantees provided for in this convention."

Observers regarded the declaration as at least an indirect rebuke of America's Taft-Hartley Act, which is one of the most drastic antilabor laws ever put into force by any democratic nation of the world.

Even the New York Times speculated that the United States government, if it "ratified" the "convention," would have to modify the Taft-Hart. law to bring it into conformity.

Leon Jouhaux of France, representing the labor group, announced to fellow delegates that the workers were "ready to face" the Taft-Hartley Act "without reservations." For the text of the convention, which sets forth a number of evidences of weakness and "loopholes" in the document, Jouhaux regretted that "no many sectional and unofficial amendments have been evident" in committee discussions of the draft.

A final vote on the accord will be taken by the conference prior to adjournment. It is proposed that a permanent committee be drafted for next year dealing with enforcement methods. The Committee on Freedom of Association announced that it had received complaints to delete from proposed conclusions to be placed in the convention a section dealing with union security clauses. This, it added, will be considered in consideration of the closed-shop issue at the 1949 conference.

Rise In Minimum Wage For Federal Work Urged By AFL Textile Workers Union

Washington.—The AFL's United Textile Workers of America, testified before Public Contracts Administrator William R. McComb, of the U. S. Labor Department, in favor of an increase from 40 cents to 75 cents an hour in the textile industry's minimum wage under the Public Contracts Act.

The hearing at the formal hearing being held in the Labor Department building. UTWA Vice President Boyd Lloyd Kleeret declared that the 40-cent minimum, established under the Public Contracts Law in May, 1942, was too low for the present minimum wage in the industry. The union official also declared that that period, he explained, has also pulled the minimum along with consideration of age earnings in textiles increased, between May, 1942, and the present from 52.2 cents an hour to $1.14 an hour, an increase of almost 100 per cent.

A survey of the UTW's contracts covering 75 per cent of the mill workers, subject to its collective bargaining agreement revealed today a minimum of at least 87 cents an hour for workers in the mills, Mr. Kleeret stated. In the South, he continued, the average earnings in cotton is 87 cents an hour, while in the North it is $1.06 an hour, in rayon and in woolen and worsted, the average is $1.08 and $1.06 an hour, respectively.

The union official said it should now be evident that the prevailing minimum in the industry is higher than 40 cents an hour or better. He, therefore, urged that 75 cents should be recognized under the Public Contracts Act in the textile industry.

Free Medical Care for All Provided In New British Social Security Plan

London, England. — A "cradle-to-the-grave" social security system featuring free medical and dental care for all Britons became effective throughout Great Britain recently.

Cornerstone of the new system is the National Health Act recently put into effect lifts the burden of worry over the payment for high-cost medical care from the shoulders of all residents of the United Kingdom under a social station. The benefits of the plan are financed through taxation and direct government contributions.

Under the program, the government has taken control and ownership of all hospitals which conduct private practice and expands previous piecemeal legislation, also went into effect. It carried for broader social security than existed in the United States.

The system provides liberalized disability benefits, death benefits, maternity payments during sickness, injury or unemployment, maternity payments and various other forms of assistance. The new law also provides that free eyes, hospital bills, and drug costs will be borne by the government and paid out of the payroll taxes and government contributions to the insurance system fund. British economy may continue to pay private fees to physicians, if they so desire, but adequate care is assured everyone without the necessity of paying private fees.

In addition to the medical services rendered by physicians, the program will meet the costs of spectacles, hearing aids, artificial limbs, and other appliances necessary in the treatment of an illness.

Under the program, the government has taken control and ownership of all hospitals which conduct private practice and expands previous piecemeal legislation, also went into effect. It carried for broader social security than existed in the United States.

The system provides liberalized disability benefits, death benefits, maternity payments during sickness, injury or unemployment, maternity payments and various other forms of assistance. The new law also provides that free eyes, hospital bills, and drug costs will be borne by the government and half the dentists have done likewise.

AFL Platform Planks Given Party Leaders; NAM Assailed

Philadelphia.—AFL President William Green addressed the Democratic National Convention, in session here, to come out in favor of a broad liberal program of social justice.

Mr. Green appeared before the resolutions committee of the convention and presented a 12-point program which the AFL developed for presentation to both major political parties.

In the No. 1 spot on the AFL platform program was a demand for the repeal of the obnoxious Taft-Hartley law, a reenactment of labor's Magna Charta, the Wagner Act. Mr. Green declared that experience under the Taft-Hartley law to date has demonstrated it to be a "complete failure."

Other proposals advanced by Mr. Green included a comprehensive program of anti-inflation; Federal aid to education, revision of the Taft-Hartley law, legislation to adequate housing facilities, modernization of industrial accidents, increase of the minimum wage to $1 an hour, adoption of a medical care program, the rebuilding of the Labor Department, establishment of fair employment legislation, and a strong program for world peace asserting this nation's faith in the United Nations.

Editor's Note: The full text of the AFL statement will be presented to the conventions of the major political parties in the form of a plank in the June 18th issue of the AFL Weekly News Service.

The conduct of the hearings held by the Democratic Party resolutions committee may be an indication that Labor's proposals will be considered carefully in the drafting of the final platform.

An indication of a more sympathetic attitude was the greeting given Morris Sayre, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, who was bombarded with objections to the NAM program. Not a single committee member had any praise for the NAM views, according to newspaper reports.

Hubert H. Humphrey, mayor of Minneapolis, who is seeking the Senatorial nomination in Minnesota, and who is in favor of the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law told Mr. Sayre his argument was "like a pretzel." Mr. Humphrey characterized the NAM as standing "adamant" in the face of a great national need for housing and slum clearance.

Maurice J. Tobin, who is seeking election in his Democratic home territory of Massachusetts, told Mr. Sayre that "management is not the sponsor of housing. Federal housing didn't mean much. Conservatives, he asserted, are always "worrying about the poor man who has an income of $10,000."

Senator Green of Rhode Island told Mr. Sayre: "You're hoping, I suppose, that the Democrats would adopt your policy and then take campaign in consequence."

Senator Myers of Pennsylvania, chairman of the committee, ridiculed Mr. Sayre's claim that Congress was controlled by cutting governmental spending. Democratic Congressman Senator Myers said all that had been done was to "slow down increases."

He added, "some standing controls have been removed."

LABOR NEWS PROGRAM IN 15TH YEAR ON RADIO

Washington.—"Labor News Review with Albert W. Dennis," the world's oldest continuously presented public service broadcast, began its 15th consecutive year on radio station WOL here.

In the past 14 years Mr. Dennis presented more than 650 guests to the microphone of Secretaries of Labor and heads of most government departments, officers of foreign labor representatives, and visiting foreign officials.

"This program has achieved 18 distinct records of service, three of them world records, including that of the oldest labor news broadcast kind in the world and the oldest continuously presented weekly news review of any kind, local or net, in the United States," Dennis said.

The program has earned three Peabody public service awards.

92 AFL NATIONAL UNIONS HAVE FILED NON-RED OATHS

Washington.—The National Labor Relations Board reported that in June 92 more international unions filed non-Communist affidavits under the Taft-Hartley law.

That brought to 167 the number of unions qualified to use the board's services in elections and to consider unfair labor practice charges. The total includes 92 American Federation of Labor, 28 Congress of Industrial Organizations, and 47 independent unions. The AFL and the CIO each have 15 unions which have not complied.

The board said 77,696 union officers had filed the affidavits as of July 1.

Retail Food Stores Get Most From Consumers' Spending

Washington.—The lion's share of each dollar spent by American consumers in retail establishments in June went to food stores, it was released by the Department of Commerce.

Moreover, analysis of the department reported that food stores are taking in a much larger part of the consumer's dollar than before the war. They now take in 27.6 cents of each dollar spent in retail channels while before the war their share was 23.5 cents.

Automobile dealers and service stations next to food stores with their 15.9-cent "take" out of each dollar, but are still not up to their prewar share of 21.2 cents. The department reported.

Eating and drinking places rank next to food stores in enlarging their prewar share of the retail dollar. They get 10.1 cents of now against 8.4 cents in 1940. But they've lost ground from midwar 1944, when their share was 13.5 cents.

Liquor sellers are doing the same now as in 1940—getting 1.4 cents of the retail dollar, but that's a tremendous drop from the 2.5 cents they took in during 1944.

Men's clothing stores, having caught up with the immediate needs of the millions of returning veterans, now get 1.8 cents of the retail dollar, or about slightly more than they got in 1940.

Women's clothing and accessories stores get a bigger share now than they did prewar—3.2 cents against an even 3 cents in 1940, but they've slipped a lot from 4.6 cents in wartime 1944.

Shoe stores now get 1.1 cents of each retail dollar against 1.4 cents in 1940, while general merchandise stores, including mail order houses, get 12.5 cents against 11.5 cents prewar.

Others getting major outlets of the retail dollar include home furnishings, home appliance and radio stores, now getting 3.5 cents against 4.4 cents prewar; building materials and hardware places, now 7.6 cents against 6.7 cents prewar; and drug stores, 2.9 against 2.5 cents.

Retail sales account for perhaps two-thirds of all consumer spending, analysts estimate. They don't include rent money, or what is spent on amusements, doctor's bills, lawyer's fees and so on.

BENEFITS PAID VETERANS TOP $8 BILLION MARK

Washington.—The Veterans Administration said it has handed out 14,300,000 "benefits" totaling $8,222,000,000 during the 3 years since the end of the GI Bill of Rights.

More than 7,900,000 veterans received readjustment allowances, which included $2,584,000,000 for unemployment and $493,000,000 in self-employment allowances. More than 5,000,000 received education and training benefits totaling $5,000,000,000. And 1,353,000 bought homes, farms and businesses with the aid of guaranties guaranteed and insured loans. Interest on these loans totaled $1,000,000. ment $140,000,000 and defaults cost another $6,000,000.

Of the nation's 14,800,000 World War II veterans, many have received more than one type of assistance. Other thousands have received GI benefits.

At the end of May, 505,776 veterans were receiving readjustment allowances and 1,700 were in training under the GI Bill.

2,704 EMPLOYES RECEIVE $56,494 IN BACK PAY

New York.—Inspections made by the Department of Labor here last month resulted in agreements by 121 employers to pay back wages in the amount of $56,494 to 2,704 employes who had not been compensated properly for overtime work, or in accord with minimum wage rates, it was reported by the department's wage and hour and public contracts division.

MORE LOCAL RENT BOARDS HAVE BALANCED MAKEUP

Washington.—Progress in reorganizing the Rent Advisory Boards to make them representative of the affected communities in each area, as required by the Housing and Rent Act of 1948, was reported today by the Housing Expediter.

As of July 1, of the 629 boards then functioning, 322 were in balance. Another 200 were "close" to balance which were found in balance in May after a screening of all the boards had been completed.

The action is found by OHE to be in balance when its membership meets requirements set by Housing Expediter Tighe E. Woods as necessary to "assure that all of such boards are equal tenant and landlord representation and additional members who represent the public.

NUMBER OF FEDERAL JOBS JUMPS 12,854 IN MONTH

Washington.—Federal employment showed an increase of 12,854 during June, the Civil Service Commission reported today. The report issued by the Civil Service Commission, bringing the grand total of government jobs to 2,061,345.

In the continental United States, more agencies reported increases this month than reported decreases. The largest increases were in the Department of the Army, Department of Agriculture, Post Office Department, Department of the Navy, Department of Interior, and Department of the Air Force. The War Assets Administration reported a sizable decrease.

Court Grants Injunction Against California Union

Fresno, Calif.—The government-by-injunction technique authorized by the Taft-Hartley law was used here against the Di Giorgio union of the AFL Farm Workers, although agricultural workers are excluded from any of the meager benefits which the law accords to labor. Federal Judge Harry C. Westover issued the injunction sought by the National Labor Relations Board restraining the union, which is on strike at two Di Giorgio ranches, from engaging in an alleged secondary boycott. Also named in the injunction were locals of the AFL's Teamsters Union and the Distillery, Rectifying and Wine Workers Union.

The striking farm workers were held to be guilty of an unfair labor practice because union pickets followed products of the Di Giorgio ranch, which were produced by strikebreakers, and induced members of other unions to refuse to handle or process such products.

The injunction was granted following a 5-day hearing at the U. S. District Court here, during which attorneys for the union attempted in vain to introduce facts in connection with the Di Giorgio strike and evidence that the NLRB had refused to hold a collective bargaining election among employes of the vast industrialized farm empire. Attorneys for the union were overruled by Judge Pierson on grounds that it was not relevant to the charge brought by the employer that a secondary boycott existed.

H. L. Mitchell, president of the National Farm Labor Union, said that the strike and the injunction were unfair. He reviewed the attempts by the Di Giorgio interests to break the strike by any means, and the fact that the employer of strikebreakers and child labor brought into the ranch in violation of state and federal laws. He added:

"Now the power of the United States government, represented by the NLRB and the federal courts, has been turned against these 1,100 defenseless farm workers who are excluded from any of the benefits but are now penalized by the Taft-Hartley law."

The strike at the Di Giorgio ranch, now in its 9th month, is the longest one ever conducted by agricultural workers. It has been marked with bitterness and conflict, highlighted by the attempted assassination of leaders of the striking union members. James Price, local union president, was nearly killed when struck by a fusillade of shots fired by an unknown assailant through the window of the home where a strike committee meeting was in progress.

AFL ENGINEERS GAIN RAISE

St. Louis.—Members of the AFL Operating Engineers, Local 148, voted for a 9 to 15-cent an hour increase to accept a pay raise and pension plan, and a pension plan at the Union Electric ending their threat of a walkout (trie Co.'s expense. The settlement that would have shut industrial plants is retroactive to July 1.